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King Hussein of Jordan, pressured ~~since summer~~ 1964 by Unified Arab Command (UAC), appealed to United States to sell him $105 million worth arms including M-48A3 tanks with 105 mm gun and F-104 aircraft. Jordanian rationale was that unless US supplied what Jordan needed it would be forced accept Soviet equipment via UAC including MIG 21 aircraft. [redacted]

[redacted] we made $42 million sales offer with credit up to $15 million any one time ground equipment, including M-48 tanks with 90 mm guns but no supersonic aircraft. This conditinnal on Jordan's not accepting Soviet equipment.

Jordanians recently have insisted that they cannot accept less that 100 M-48A3 tanks with 105 mm guns. Although preferring F-104's at this juncture, they are willing make inquiries into capabilities and cost various European aircraft. Up to now they have dismissed British Lightning as too heavy and expensive and Mirage as too expensive and not up to MIG 21 in performance. They also believe credit terms available in either France or UK would be commercial which they unable to bear. We have also suggested Swedish Bamb should be considered possible alternative.

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Clearances: EUR/RPE EUR/WE - Mr. Barbour
S/S - Mr. Christensen

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We are now reviewing our offer to see if we can come up with an acceptable compromise. FYI. Presently it is our impression that Jordanians would only settle for a deal including following: $42 million ground package with offer of credit at any one time up to $15 million from US; 100 M-48 tanks to be delivered 1965-1966 and 100 M-48A3 tanks with 105 mm guns to be delivered 1967-1968. (M-48A3's would be part of second tranche, not included in $42 million package.) END FYI

We now informed [redacted] planning arrive Paris this week to make inquiries regarding Mirage. We hopeful GOF will show Mirage off to full advantage.

The Embassy requested convey foregoing to appropriate French officials on strictly confidential QTE not for attribution UNQTE basis.

END

GP-3

RUSK